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Agent, Under Eye of CIA, Takes Stand in Heine Suit

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BALTIMORE — Juri Raus, who has accused a fellow Estonian immigrant of being a Communist KGB agent, spent nearly two hours on the witness stand here yesterday as part of a calculated exercise in futility.

While the general counsel of the Central Intelligence Agency quietly nodded or shook his head toward Raus after each question, attorneys for the man Raus is accused of slandering demonstrated that they were clearly blocked from learning anything relevant from Raus about his job as an agent of the CIA.

Eerik Heine, the man accused by Raus, came here from his home near Toronto for the hearing and sat grimly through the attempt to take a deposition from Raus.

Sitting at the table with Raus' attorneys was Lawrence Houston, CIA general counsel, who was sent personally by CIA Director William F. Raborn to instruct Raus on what questions he would be permitted to answer.

3 CIA Affidavits

In three affidavits submitted to the court in connection with Heine's \$110,000 slander suit against Raus, the CIA has

identified Raus as a CIA agent and has said that he was instructed to warn Estonians in this country that Heine was a "dispatched Soviet Intelligence operative, a KGB agent."

In a paper filed with the court yesterday morning, Raborn said he was sending Houston "to assist in protecting information relating to intelligence sources and methods."

Raus was permitted to answer a number of routine questions such as his name, address, age and birthplace during the taking of the deposition.

But the government objected when Heine's attorney, Ernest C. Raskauskas, attempted to learn whether Raus was paid by the CIA and how he was paid.

After a conference, Houston told Chief Federal District Judge Roszel C. Thomsen that Raus had been paid "directly or indirectly" for his services to the CIA during the period in which he made the statements about Heine.

Raus mentioned — in answering a question about his service in the Army reserve — that he had attended an intelligence school last summer. He was not permitted to answer any further questions about the location of the school or what he studied there.

In answer to questions, Raus

said that he had filed annual federal income tax statements, but he was not permitted to say what total income he had reported.

When Raskauskas attempted to ask a series of questions concerning who at the CIA had supplied Raus with information about Heine and precisely what information he had been furnished, Maroney and Houston objected.

Hearing Set On Motion

When it became clear that no further relevant information could be obtained, Raskauskas dismissed Raus from the witness chair and a hearing was scheduled for May 13 on Raus' motion for a summary judgment based on his claim that he has privilege against a slander suit because he was acting as an official of the U.S. Government.

Heine said afterward that one of his purposes in coming here was to make himself available if any agency of the government wanted to question him about his alleged involvement with the KGB—or even to arrest him. No one bothered him.

U.S. Attorney Thomas Kenney, who sat only a few feet from Heine during the hearing, explained later that it is one

thing for the government to know something about a person and another thing entirely to be able to prove in court that he has committed a specific crime.